

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District****Federal Tax ID: 92-6000034****Project Title:****Project Type:** Information Systems and Technology

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough - School District Library & Technology Upgrade

**State Funding Requested: \$120,000**  
Future Funding May Be Requested**House District:** Mat-Su Areawide (13-16)**Brief Project Description:**

Upgrade library/technology needs in schools. Specified schools are Sherrod Elementary, Swanson Elementary, Pioneer Peak Elementary, Finger Lake Elementary, Valley Pathways, Academy Charter, Fronteras Spanish Emersion Charter, Birchtree Charter, Palmer Jr. Middle, Colony Middle, Palmer High, Colony High.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$120,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	(\$120,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

FY2011 \$110,000

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Schools need to stay up-to-date with current teaching methods and technologies. This \$10,000 grant to each of the specified schools will allow them to update their technology needs with functional and upgraded computers; and/or add technology to meet the needs of At-Risk students, such as, the Promethean Board, a very successful interactive tool. Library books are also in need of replacement in some of the schools.

**Project Timeline:**

2012

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Mat-Su Borough School District

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Don Carney, Facilities Coordinator
Title:	
Address:	3901 E Bogard Rd Wasilla , Alaska 99654
Phone Number:	(907)376-0806
Email:	don.carney@matsuk12.us

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

**From:** Cyd Duffin [mailto:Cyd.Duffin@matsuk12.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 2:50 PM  
**To:** Karen Sawyer  
**Subject:** Colony High School: Gatto request for technology/library grant support letter

Dear Karen,

Thank you so much for thinking of us!

Colony High School has some twenty-year old, shabby, dilapidated tables in our library that have been patched together one too many times and are falling apart. We'd love to have funds to replace some of our student study tables and seating.

We also have a very small and outdated "Alaskana" collection and would like very much to buy 50-75 volumes/editions of newer Alaskan authors so that our state collection is updated.

Our Advanced Placement (AP) students very often have to buy all their own textbooks, to the tune of hundreds of dollars each year. We would like to buy some classroom sets of the AP texts and novels that are used in AP literature, AP language, AP physics, AP government, AP US history, AP world history, (to name a few) so that we can have texts for students to check out rather than having them purchase their own.

Finally, we are in desperate need of some new DVD players and upgraded technology for teachers to be able to check out (from the library) for classroom use.

If we were to receive a grant of \$10,000, it would not cover all the expenses for these items, but it would greatly affect our ability to purchase at least some of them.

Many thanks to you and Representative Gatto for any consideration you can give us. We are truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Cyd Duffin, Colony High School Principal



## Colony Middle School

9250 Colony Schools Dr.

Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 761-1500

Mary McMahon, Principal

Casey Hull, Assistant Principal

Dear Representative Gatto,

Thank you for inviting us to apply for the library/technology grant again this year. This money allows us to address both high dollar needs and high interest needs. For the coming school year Colony Middle has several needs in both areas as follows.

**\$3,000 - Digital and print resources:** This category encompasses many options for providing resources in content areas for teachers and students. The “book” market is rapidly expanding options for ebooks, and audio/video resources. Digital resources can be accessed by teachers in classrooms with Promethean boards, and by students at school or at home. The library materials budget is always decreasing, and updates to content areas and fiction are greatly needed. Ebooks can be checked out through our online library catalog and returned electronically... Never a lost book!

**\$3,000 - Media production support:** Student projects have evolved to a new level. Preparing students for future work and functioning in society will clearly involve technology and communicating. CMS has been working to provide students with the equipment, software and training needed to produce presentations in a variety of formats. The following will help CMS expand options for student and teacher presentations and projects: a digital video camera, software for labs for video and photo editing, a green screen set of background and lights, and one computer setup for video editing.

**\$4,000 – 20 library chairs:** CMS has been replacing broken library chairs for the last 5 years. This should be the last batch of chairs that we will need to fill the two classroom seating areas. CMS takes pride in the comfortable and productive workspace that the library offers students. The CMS library sees an average of 200 students working independently a week, and one week on March we saw nearly 400 independent students... plus classes!

Respectfully yours,

Robin Turk  
Colony Middle School Library  
9250 Colony School Drive  
Palmer AK, 99645  
907-761-1512  
rturk@matsuk12.us



**Finger Lake Elementary**  
*PO Box 875910-230*  
*Wasilla, Alaska 99687*  
*907-373-3242 Fax 907-373-3649*



March 30, 2011

Dear Representative Gatto,

Greetings from the falcons of Finger Lake!  
First and foremost thank you for the grant we received last year for technology and our library. We are putting it to good use for student success.

I would like to put our request in at this time for a library/technology grant in the amount of \$10,000 for our school. I thank you ahead of time for your consideration. Blessings on the rest of the session.

David Nufer  
Principal

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Nufer, Principal





Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School,  
Centro Académico

Mailing address: PO Box 871433  
Wasilla, AK 99687-1433

Address: 7010 E. Bogard  
Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 745-2223  
Email: [info@fronteras-k8.us](mailto:info@fronteras-k8.us)  
Website: [www.fronteras-k8.us](http://www.fronteras-k8.us)

Karen Sawyer, Staff  
Office of Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 118  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Karen:

Thank you for inviting us to request funding for library/technology needs. We are a new school, and always in need of additional technology. We would like to have the opportunity to use dual- interactive Smart Boards. We would have a couple of boards mounted in areas of the school where they would be accessible to the most students, staff, and our APC Board. I saw one demonstrated at the Alaska State ASTE Conference in Anchorage just a couple of weeks ago. Two students can be working side by side on two different projects, using their hand movements to control the responses.

Students get so excited about new technology, and the excitement makes them eager to come and **participate**. The interactivity lends itself to **collaboration**, which in turn, leads to **creativity and production**.

I have seen two students work on an interactive board at once, with the remainder of the class crowded anxiously waiting to have a turn—totally involved in the work being done.

I have watched teachers, including myself, struggle to move away from this exhibit at the conference. As educators, we have to make educations fun and attractive. We want school to be enticing to students. We cant' teach them if they aren' here. This technology would be a great "kid/student magnet!"

If there is a specific format that I need to follow in requesting a grant for these discretionary funds, please inform me.

Thank you notifying us.

Cordially,

Casey Bowen, Principal





## Fronteras Spanish Immersion Charter School, Centro Académico

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Mailing address: PO Box 871433  
Wasilla, AK 99687-1433

Address: 7010 E. Bogard  
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Phone (907) 745-2223  
Email: [info@fronteras-k8.us](mailto:info@fronteras-k8.us)  
Website: [www.fronteras-k8.us](http://www.fronteras-k8.us)



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***Mission: Mat-Su Borough School District prepares students for success.***





*~ Life-long Learners ~  
~ Community Assets ~  
~ Citizens of Integrity ~*



# PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

*~ Home of the Moose ~*

1170 West Arctic Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

phone (907) 746-8400 fax (907) 746-8481 activities (907) 746-8484

[www.phs.matsuk12.us](http://www.phs.matsuk12.us)

Principals - Wolfgang Winter, Kari Dendurent, and Garth Morgan  
Activities Director - Jeff Thiede

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## Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 108  
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to our library collection.

Palmer High School's collection of non-fiction works dates back to the Palmer Territorial School – pre-statehood. There are a number of books stamped “Palmer Territorial School” and, while they are interesting as a matter of sentiment, they are obviously not useful in terms of current research for our students and staff. As of early December, 2009 the average age of our collection was 1986, with over 4000 works having publishing dates prior to 1980.

It is our aim to “weed” the nonfiction collection and replace many of the items with nonfiction books that address current issues and contain the most up to date information.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal  
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office



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## Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 108  
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to the technology in our library.

The Palmer High School library currently has 30 working computers for student use ranging in age from 1½ years to 7 years old. Because of our class sizes we end up turning students or classes away as we are full. During lunch periods the library is almost always at capacity as students are doing research, make-up work, and more. Also, we offer printing for students' school work at 10 cents per copy – this service has been discontinued as our copier recently stopped working and, because of its age, it can no longer be serviced. Finally, an item which we do not have and one that would undoubtedly get a lot of use, is a high quality flatbed color scanner.

It is our aim to improve our students' access to the technology they will need as they take their next steps in life after they leave high school. The needs mentioned above would address the areas we feel have the highest priority in terms of getting that accomplished.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal  
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office

01. April 2011



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## Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 108  
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to the physical design and layout of our library.

As in other phases of life where sometimes what is true is not as critical as what appears to be true, our library is a socially welcoming place without the physical attributes to back it up. Roofs need to be fixed or replaced, textbooks need to be replaced or purchased, security measures and wiring need to be installed or upgraded, and so on. What often gets neglected because of all of these important things are the physical accommodations in classrooms and/common areas. Our library furnishings fall into this latter category.

If our premier academic area – our library – is as inviting as it can be to our student users they are more likely to want to avail themselves of everything that our library can offer. With 75-100 students using our library during lunch time we would suggest that a more trendy design in our library environment would be in order. This would include a furniture “makeover,” painting, and new carpet.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal  
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office

01. April 2011



~ Life-long Learners ~  
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Principals - Wolfgang Winter, Kari Dendurent, and Garth Morgan  
Activities Director - Jeff Thiede

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## Re: Funding for the Palmer High School Library

Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 108  
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Mr. Gatto,

On behalf of the Palmer High School community I would like to request funding for a project involving the further education of our students; specifically I am referring to the our school library.

We are hoping for financial backing as we look toward addressing three areas of that facility that we've identified as needing upgrades:

- Collection Development: Palmer High School's collection dates back to the Palmer Territorial School – pre statehood. Our Library/Media Specialist has come across a number of books stamped "Palmer Territorial School." The average age of the collection as of Dec. 4, 2009 was 1986 with over 4000 of titles having publication dates pre-1980. our aim to "weed" the nonfiction collection and replace many of the items with nonfiction books that address current issues and contain the most up-to-date information.
- Technology: Palmer High's library currently has 30 working computers for student use – ranging in age from 1 ½ to years in age. We often have to turn students / classes away as we are at capacity, in terms of research "station." Also, we offer printing for students school work at 10 cents per copy. This service has been discontinued as the copier recently stopped working; it is so old we no longer can get it serviced. Finally as piece of equipment we do not have but would get a lot of use is a high quality flatbed color scanner.
- Design: The furniture and design of the library could use a facelift. We get 75 - 100 students that utilize the library every day during lunch. They enjoy eating their lunch, doing homework, socializing, and reading during their lunch hour. This number is in addition to all of the classes that filter into and out of the library in any given day. We hope to design a more trendy library environment for students that offers new furniture / seating arrangement, painting, and carpet.

Anything you could facilitate to make this a reality would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wolfgang Winter, Principal  
Palmer High School

Cc: Karen Sawyer, Budget Staff – Rep. Gatto's Office

01. April 2011



# Palmer Junior Middle School

1159 S. Chugach St.  
Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 761-4300 Fax (907) 761-4372

**Gene Stone, Principal**  
**David Russell, Assistant Principal**

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March 27, 2011

Dear Representative Gatto,

I would like to begin by thanking you and your staff for the efforts you put forth in providing additional monies to fund library needs for Palmer Junior Middle School. To date we are in the process of finalizing bids to begin the installation of a library security system in the Palmer Junior Middle School Library. The possibility of installing a book security system would not have been possible without the awarded \$10,000 from 2010.

To continue to further the completion of this project will require another seven to nine-thousand dollars. Palmer Junior Middle School is directing \$4,000 in discretionary funds this year to help with the first phase of the installation. To continue the project to completion will require at least another \$7,000 for the 33,000 books in our library to be tattle taped so they will work in connection with the system. We will receive a number of volunteer hours from parents to help with the taping of the books.

Additionally, we would like to use the remaining \$3,000 from the 2011 award (should we receive one) so that we can update our Renaissance Reading program which incorporates a technology component to assess reading comprehension. The additional funds would provide us with enough current selections to sustain a robust reading program that utilizes technology for our middle school.

Another \$10,000 award for 2011-2012 would truly be an incredibly well spent allocation. We would be able to complete the securing of our library and would enhance literacy options for all students within the Palmer Junior Middle School education system.

Thank you for serving the students and community of Palmer Junior Middle School.

Sincerely,

Gene Stone





# **Pioneer Peak Elementary School**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District  
1959 North Trunk Road, Palmer, Alaska 99645

Ph: (907) 861-5700

Fax: (907) 861-5780

**Dan Molina**

**Robin Covington**

Principal

Admin. Secretary

March 28, 2011

Dear Honorable Representative Gatto,

I am submitting a Project Request for Library/Technology Upgrades. I know you are well aware of Pioneer Peak's commitment to provide the best possible instructional strategies and learning opportunities for our students. To illustrate, our 2010 Standard Based Assessment data indicates that 92% of our students are Proficient and/or Advanced in Language Arts and 93% are Proficient and/or Advanced in Mathematics.

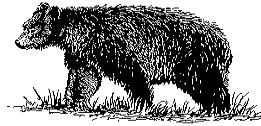
One way we have been able to achieve academic excellence is by the integration of technology into our instruction. We also make the commitment to provide teachers with the necessary professional development to seamlessly infuse this technology into our teaching practices.

The Library/Technology Upgrades funds will make it possible to update several student computers, acquire more document cameras and build our library collection. These are the tools of the modern classroom that make it possible for our students to master both State and District Technology Standards.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and your continued support to our students.

Respectfully,

Dan Molina, Principal  
Pioneer Peak Elementary



## **SHERROD ELEMENTARY**

Mark R. Hoffman  
Principal  
(907)761-4100

561 North Gulkana St.  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
[www.she.matsuk12.us](http://www.she.matsuk12.us)

Linda M. Larson  
Administrative Secretary  
fax: (907)761-4180

**March 23, 2011**

**Dear Representative Gatto—**

**Please consider Sherrod's request for funds to be used for technology upgrades and library books. Our students are preparing for a future which we can only imagine, and the most up-to-date resources will help them become the productive citizens we wish them to become.**

**In the past we have used funds provided through your office to purchase interactive Promethean Boards and to continue provide our students with reading materials at their grade and interest level. These funds have made our school that much better for our children.**

**I thank you for the consideration of this request. As always.....**

**Together Great Things Happen,**

*Mark R. Hoffman*

**Mark R. Hoffman**







**Valley Pathways High School**

**Box 4897**

**1150 N. France Rd**

**Palmer, AK 99645**

**(p) 761-4650 (f) 761-4680**

**Jim Wanser - Principal**

March 29, 2011

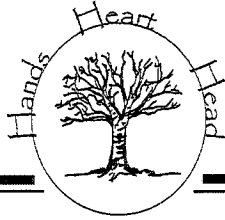
Dear Representative Gatto,

I would like to start this letter by thanking you greatly for making the library grant a reality for Valley Pathways. With this money we were able to purchase much needed reading books and materials for our students. Our school has never had many books available for the students to read in the past 11 years of operation. It has been very difficult to encourage the students to become lifelong learners and to enjoy reading with the amount of limited resources available to them. With this money, we were able to purchase new, high interest, books and updated resources which we will be able to use across curriculums. We also are getting book shelves in which to house and protect the books. Our portables are very old and have few shelving units that are of quality. We also are getting a simple card cataloging system. We realize that this is an old fashion way of card cataloging the books, but for this year it is within the budget. Should we be able to obtain a grant for next year, we would like to further add to our library of books as well as get a computer/printer and a more modern and sophisticated way of tracking the books in our portables.

Thank you again for considering us for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Michele Chapman  
Reading Teacher/Special Education Teacher



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# Birchtree Charter School

March 25, 2011

Birchtree Charter School  
7107 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy  
Palmer, AK 99645  
907-745-1831

Office of Representative Carl Gatto  
State Capitol, Room 118  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Sawyer,

Thank you for your email regarding the possibility of receiving discretionary funds. I am writing to request that Birchtree Charter School be awarded a \$10,000 library grant. Birchtree is a K-8 school in its first year of operation. The school opened in August 2010 with an enrollment of 220 students. We currently have no library collection but have identified library development as our main funding goal for the 2011/2012 school year. Birchtree would use these funds to purchase library books for our student collection. Receiving this grant would be an excellent way to launch our library fundraising activities.

We enjoyed Representative Gatto's visit to Birchtree back in February, and look forward to hosting him again.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan McCauley, Ph.D.  
Birchtree Charter School  
[Susan.McCauley@matsuk12.us](mailto:Susan.McCauley@matsuk12.us)

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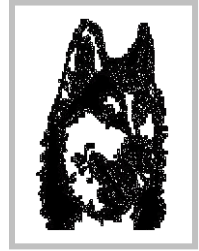
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# Academy Charter School

801 E. Arctic Ave, Palmer Alaska 99645  
(907)746-2358, (907)746-2368 Fax  
Or visit us at [www.matsuk12.us](http://www.matsuk12.us)

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April 12, 2010

Dear Representative Gatto,

Academy Charter School is in serious need of technology upgrades. We have been advised by the MIS Dept. of the school district that our main server is in jeopardy and could fail at any time. The server's life expectancy passed a couple of years ago. The cost of a new server is \$8,300. We were told we need to replace (upgrade) three switches at a cost of \$2,000 each. We are very concerned. Should the server fail, our school is technically "dead in the water" as far as connectivity with the district.

We would greatly appreciate your help in funding our necessary technology upgrades. Without your help, we will have to tap into funds that would otherwise have been spent directly on student learning.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gerard  
Principal

## Karen Sawyer

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**From:** Rebecca Hardy [Rebecca.Hardy@matsuk12.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:55 AM  
**To:** Karen Sawyer  
**Cc:** MaryKate Mayer  
**Subject:** Capital Budget

**Importance:** High

Karen, I'm responding to your email for Mary Kate Mayer, Principal at Swanson Elementary, regarding the additional funding through Capital Budget monies.

Ms. Mayer is requesting the monies to improve and update our library collection as well as replace our aging technology computer lab. We appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this money! Please let me know if you need anymore information.

Thank you!



*Rebecca Hardy*

[rebecca.hardy@matsuk12.us](mailto:rebecca.hardy@matsuk12.us)

Administrative Secretary

Swanson Elementary

907-745-3227 Phone

907-745-1021 Fax